

USEFUL JAPANESE EXPRESSIONS

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GENERAL FEATURES OF The JAPANESE LANGUAGE

- I . The predicate verb always comes at the end of the sentence.
- II . A verb has no ending to indicate person or number.
- III . There are no articles.
- IV . A noun does not change form to indicate number; it can mean either the singular or the plural form of the word.
- V . The case of a noun or a pronoun is indicated by means of various particles occurring after the noun or pronoun.
- VI . Subject and object are often omitted, if they are understood from the context.

JAPANESE CHARACTERS

We use three kinds of characters in Japanese: “kanji” (the Chinese ideographic script), “hiragana” and “katakana”.

A sentence in Japanese is usually written using a combination of kanji and hiragana. Foreign names and words of foreign derivation are written in katakana. Besides these, we use “Romaji” (Romanized characters). These, however, are not normally used, except in some dictionaries or on signboards.

ex. 1 Japanese language

日本語	kanji
にほんご	hiragana
ニホンゴ	katakana
ni ho n go	rōmaji

ex. 2 I study Japanese at Tokyo Kenshu Center.

Tō kyō Ken shū	Se n tā	de	Ni hon go o	ben	kyō shi ma su.
東京研修	センター	で	日本語を	勉強	します。
kanji	katakana	hiragana	kanji	hiragana	kanji
			hiragana		hiragana

Nihon-go no Hatsuon (Pronunciation of Japanese)

1. Nihon-go no onsetsu (Japanese syllables)

a	i	u	e	o
ka	ki	ku	ke	ko
sa	shi	su	se	so
ta	chi	tsu	te	to
na	ni	nu	ne	no
ha	hi	fu	he	ho
ma	mi	mu	me	mo
ya	(i)	yu	(e)	yo
ra	ri	ru	re	ro
wa	(i)	(u)	(e)	(o)

kya	kyu	kyo
sha	shu	sho
cha	chu	cho
nya	nyu	nyo
hya	hyu	hyo
mya	myu	myo
rya	ryu	ryo

ga	gi	gu	ge	go
za	ji	zu	ze	zo
da	(ji)	(zu)	de	do
ba	bi	bu	be	bo
pa	pi	pu	pe	po

gya	gyu	gyo
ja	ju	jo
bya	byu	byo
pya	pyu	pyo

n

2. Tanboin to Chōboin (Short vowels and long vowels)

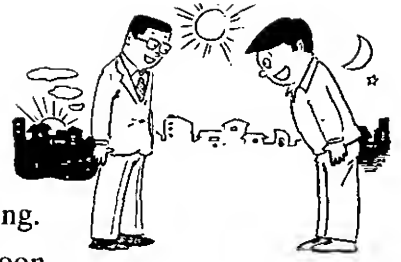
a i u e o
 ā ii ū ē, ei ō

obasan (aunt) : obāsan (grandmother), ojisan (uncle) : ojiisan (grandfather),
 yuki (snow) : yūki (courage),
 e (picture) : ē (yes), heya (room) : heiya (plain),
 koko (here) : kōkō (high school), toru (take) : tōru (pass along)

3. Nijū shiin/Sokuon (Double consonants)

oto (sound) : otto (husband), kako (past) : kakko (parenthesis),
 isai (detail) : issai (one year old),
 kippu (ticket), motto (more), matchi (matches)

Conversational Expressions



1. Ohayō (gozaimasu).
2. Konnichiwa.
3. Konbanwa.
4. Sayōnara.
5. Oyasuminasai.
6. Dōzo.
7. Onegai-shimasu.
8. Ganbatte kudasai.

1. Good morning.
2. Good afternoon.
3. Good evening.
4. Good-bye.
5. Good night.
6. Please.
7. Please.(lit. ask a favor)
8. Do your best.

1. Arigato (gozaimasu).
- Dō itashimashite.
2. Gomennasai.
- Iie, kamaimasen.
3. Sumimasen.
- Iie, kamaimasen.

1. Thank you.
- Not at all.
2. Excuse me./ I'm sorry.
- No, it's nothing.
3. Excuse me./ I'm sorry./ Thank you.
- No, it's nothing.

1. Wakarimasu ka.
- Hai, wakarimasu.
- Iie, wakarimasen.
2. Shitte imasu ka.
- Hai, shitte imasu.
- Iie, shirimasen.
3. Arimasu ka.
- Hai, arimasu.
- Iie, arimasen.

1. Do you understand?
- Yes, I understand.
- No, I don't understand.
2. Do you know?
- Yes, I know.
- No, I don't know.
3. Do you have? (Is there ...?)
- Yes, I have. (Yes, there is.)
- No, I don't have. (No, there isn't.)

4. Ii desu ka.
- Hai, ii desu
Iie, dame desu.

4. Okay? / May I ...?
- Yes, okay.
- No, it's not okay./No, you can't.

Kaiwa

Conversation

Tanaka: Konnichiwa.

Chan: Konnichiwa.

Tanaka: [O-]genki desu ka.

Chan: Hai, genki desu.

Anata wa?

Tanaka: Watashi mo genki desu.

Chan: Samui desu ne.

(a)

Ii [o-]tenki desu ne.

(b)

Tanaka: Sō desu ne.

Tanaka: Good afternoon.

Chan: Good afternoon.

Tanaka: How are you? (Are you fine?)

Chan: Yes, I'm fine.

And you?

Tanaka: I'm fine, too.

Chan: It's cold, isn't it?

It's fine weather, isn't it?

Tanaka: Yes, it is

(a)

samui	cold [weather]
suzushii	cool

atsui	hot
atatakai	warm

(b)



ii [o-]tenki
good weather



kumori
cloudy

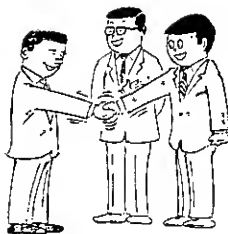


ame
rain



yuki
snow

Jiko-shōkai



Self-Introduction

Watashi wa Rao desu.
(Watashi wa) Indo kara kimashita.
Dōzo yoroshiku.

I am Rao.
(I) come (came) from India.
How do you do?

1. Anata wa donata desu ka.
 - Watashi wa Rao desu.
 - (Watashi wa) Tōkyō-denki no kenshūsei desu.

1. Who are you?
 - I am Rao.
 - (I) am a Tokyo Electric trainee.

2. Anata wa Nihon-jin desu ka.
 - Hai, watashi wa Nihon-jin desu.
 - Hai, sō desu.
 - Iie, watashi wa Nihon-jin dewa arimasen.
 - Iie, sō dewa arimasen.

2. Are you a Japanese?
 - Yes, I am a Japanese.
 - Yes, I am.
 - No, I am not a Japanese.
 - No, I am not.

3. Anata wa Rao-san desu ka.
 - Hai, watashi wa Rao desu.
 - Hai, sō desu.
 - Iie, watashi wa Rao dewa arimasen.
 - Iie, sō dewa arimasen.

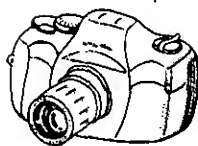
3. Are you Mr. Rao?
 - Yes, I am Rao.
 - Yes, I am.
 - No, I am not Rao.
 - No, I am not.

watashi	I	anata	you	Nihon-jin	Japanese
...-san	Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.			Indo-jin	Indian
donata/dare	who			-jin	people

hon
book



kamera
camera



tokei
watch, clock



kippu
ticket



kitte
postage stamp



kutsu
shoes



kasa
umbrella



nekutai
necktie

Nan desu ka.

What ?

1. Kore }
Sore } wa hon desu.
Are }

1. This }
That } is a book.
That over there }

2. Kore wa watashi no hon desu.

2. This is my book.

3. Kono }
Sono } hon wa watashi no desu.
Ano }

3. This book }
That book } is mine.
That book over there }

4. Sore wa nan desu ka.
- Tokei desu.

4. What is that?
- It's a watch.

kore this thing here

sore that thing there

are that thing over there

→

kono

hon this book

→

sono

hon that book

→

ano

hon that book over there

↑
before noun

watashi no hon my book

anata no hon your book

watashi no mine

anata no yours

Doko desu ka.

Where ?

1. Chotto sumimasen.

Otearai wa doko desu ka.

(a)

- Asoko }
- Achira } desu.

(b)

1. Excuse me.

Where is the toilet?

- It's over there.

(a)

denwa	telephone	uketsuke	information desk	eki	station
resutoran	restaurant	depāto	department store	hoteru	hotel
yūbinkyoku	post office	切符 kippu	ticket	chizu	map
入口 iriguchi	the way in/entrance	出口 deguchi	the way out/exit		
taishikan	embassy	Indo-taishikan	Indian embassy		

(b)

koko	here/this place	soko	that place
kochira	this way (direction)	sochira	that way (direction)
asoko	that place over there	doko	where
achira	that way (direction)	dochira	which way (direction)
eki no mae	in front of the station		
eki no ushiro	behind the station		
mae	front, before	ushiro	behind, back
migi	right	hidari	left
ue	on, above	shita	under, below, beneath
naka	in, inside	soto	outside
chikaku/soba	near	tonari	next [door]

Depāto

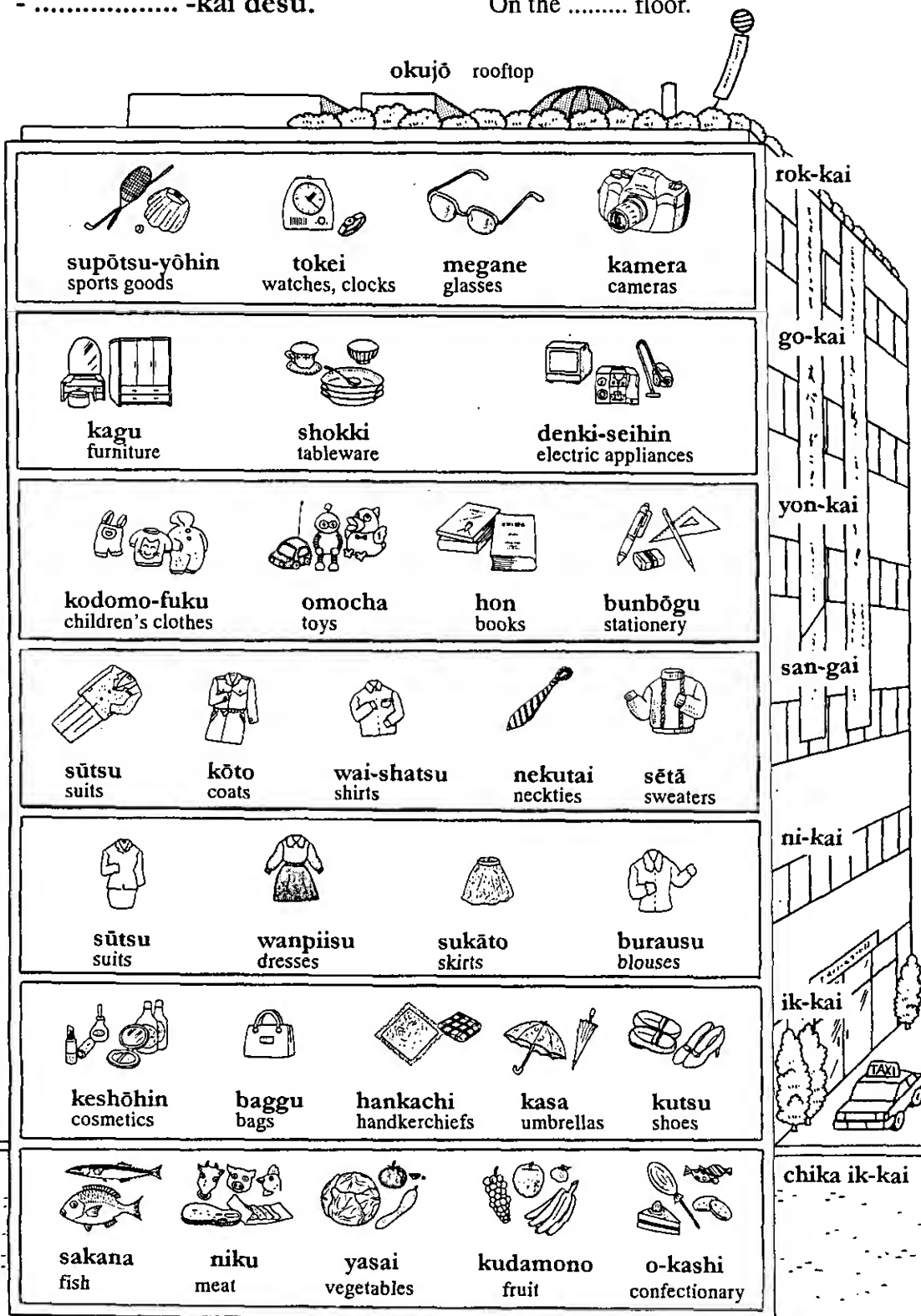
Department Store

..... wa doko desu ka.

Where can I get?

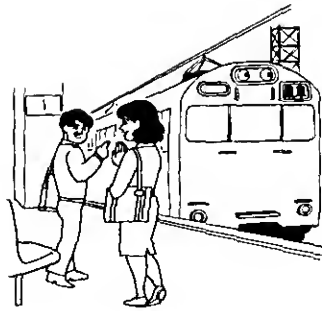
- -kai desu.

On the floor.



...-kai floor

chika basement, underground



Eki de

At a station

1. Kono densha wa Ueno e ikimasu ka.

(a)

(b)

- Iie, ikimasen.

1. Does this train go to Ueno?

- No, it doesn't.

2. Ueno-iki wa nan-bansen desu ka.

(c)

(d)

- San-bansen desu.

2. What number track is for Ueno?

- Track number 3.

(a)	densha electric train basu bus chikatetsu subway
(b)	ikimasu go

(c)	<div> Tōkyō Ueno Ōsaka </div> } -iki <div> [train] for <div> Tokyo Ueno Osaka </div> </div>
-----	---

(d)	<div> san yon go nan </div> } -bansen <div> track number <div> 3 4 5 </div> </div> <div> what track number </div>
	<div> Yamanote Chuo Ginza Marunouchi nani </div> } -sen <div> Yamanote Chuo Ginza Marunouchi what </div> } line

norimasu	get on, ride	
	densha ni norimasu	get on a train
orimasu	get off	
	densha o orimasu	get off a train
norikaemasu	change trains	

Takushii de (1)

1. Dochira e ikimasu ka.

- Ginza e itte kudasai.

(a)

(b)

2. Ginza no doko desu ka.

(a)

- Tōkyō-biru no mae e.

(c)

By taxi (1)

1. Where would you like to go?

- To Ginza, please.



2. Where in Ginza?

- The front of the Tokyo Building.

(a)	Asakusa あさくさ	Akihabara あきはばら	Ginza ぎんざ	Shinjuku しんじゅく	Tōkyō とうきょう
	Ueno うえの	Yokohama よこはま	Ōsaka おおさか	Kōbe こうべ	Sakae さかえ
(b)	ikimasu	go	→	itte kudasai	Please go.
	kimasu	come	→	kite kudasai	Please come.
	kaerimasu	return	→	kaette kudasai	Please return.
(c)	biru	building			
	kōen	park		Hibiya-kōen	Hibiya Park
	ginkō	bank		Nippon Gink	The Bank of Japan

Takushii de (2)

1. Koko wa doko desu ka.

- Ginza 4-chōme desu.

2. A, asoko o migi e itte kudasai.

(a)

3. Soko de tomete kudasai.

(b)

By taxi (2)

1. Where are we?

- (This place is) Ginza 4-chome.

2. Oh, please turn right over there.

3. Please stop there.

(a)	migi	right		hidari	left		massugu	straight
							massugu	
				hidari e	←	↑	→	migi e
(b)	tomemasu	stop	→	tomete kudasai				Please stop.

sūji/kazu

Numbers

1	ichi	10	jū	100	hyaku	1,000	sen
2	ni	20	ni-jū	200	ni-hyaku	2,000	ni-sen
3	san	30	san-jū	300	san-byaku	3,000	san-zen
4	yon, shi	40	yon-jū	400	yon-hyaku	4,000	yon-sen
5	go	50	go-jū	500	go-hyaku	5,000	go-sen
6	roku	60	roku-jū	600	rop-pyaku	6,000	roku-sen
7	nana, shichi	70	nana-jū	700	nana-hyaku	7,000	nana-sen
8	hachi	80	hachi-jū	800	hap-pyaku	8,000	has-sen
9	kyū, ku	90	kyū-jū	900	kyū-hyaku	9,000	kyū-sen
10	jū					10,000	ichi-man
11	jū-ichi					20,000	ni-man
12	jū-ni					⋮	
13	jū-san					100,000	jū-man
14	jū-shi, jū-yon					200,000	ni-jū-man
15	jū-go					⋮	
						1,000,000	hyaku-man

150 hyaku-go-jū
 253 ni-hyaku go-jū-san
 502 go-hyaku ni
 3,840 san-zen hap-pyaku yon-jū
 793,000 nana-jū-kyū-man san-zen
 3,564,590 san-byaku-go-jū-roku-man yon-sen go-hyaku kyū-jū

sūji	jikan time, o'clock	tsuki months	yōbi days of the week
1	ichi-ji	ichi-gatsu	nichi-yōbi
2	ni-ji	ni-gatsu	Sunday
3	san-ji	san-gatsu	getsu-yōbi
4	yo-ji	shi-gatsu	Monday
5	go-ji	go-gatsu	ka-yōbi
6	roku-ji	roku-gatsu	Tuesday
7	shichi-ji	shichi-gatsu	sui-yōbi
8	hachi-ji	hachi-gatsu	Wednesday
9	ku-ji	ku-gatsu	moku-yōbi
10	jū-ji	jū-gatsu	Thursday
11	jū-ichi-ji	jū-ichi-gatsu	kin-yōbi
12	jū-ni-ji	jū-ni-gatsu	Friday
?	nan-ji what time	nan-gatsu which month	do-yōbi Saturday
			nan-yōbi what day of the week

A: Ashita wa watashi no tanjōbi desu.

B: Sō desu ka.

Omedetō gozaimasu.

A: Tomorrow will be my birthday.

B: Is that so?

Congratulations!





Kaimono (1)

Shopping (1)

1. Chotto sumimasen.
Sore o misete kudasai.

(a)

- Hai, dōzo.

1. Excuse me.
Please show me that.

- Here you are.

2. Kore wa ikura desu ka.

(b)

- San-byaku-en desu.

2. How much is this?

- It's 300 yen.

3. Dewa kore o kudasai.

(c)

3. Well then. I'll take it.
Give me this.

(a) misemasu show → misete kudasai Please show me.

(b) ikura desu ka how much?

(c) kudasai Please give me.

kagi

mizu

haizara

o kudasai

→

Please give me

{ the key.

some water.

the ashtray.

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ichi	ni	san	shi yon	go	roku	shichi nana	hachi	kyū ku	jū
	百		千		万			円	
	100		1,000		10,000			¥	
	hyaku		sen		man			en	

¥400 { 四百円
4 百円
yon-hyaku-en

¥25,000 { 二万五千円
2 万 5 千円
ni-man go-sen-en

Nihon no okane (1) : Japanese Banknotes

Photos © The Bank of Japan

As of December 1994

▼10,000yen (76×160mm)

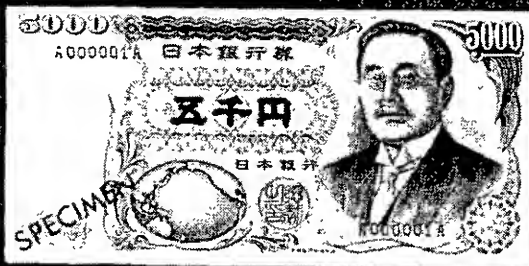


Date of First Issue
Serial Number...Black Nov. 1, 1984
Brown Dec. 1, 1993

Front : Yukichi Fukuzawa
Back : Pheasants

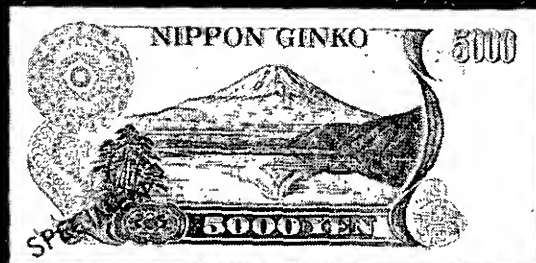


▼5,000yen (76×155mm)

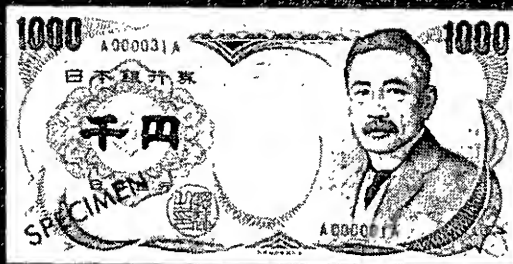


Date of First Issue
Serial Number...Black Nov. 1, 1984
Brown Dec. 1, 1993

Front : Inazo Nitobe
Back : Mount Fuji



▼1,000yen (76×150mm)



Date of First Issue
Serial Number...Black Nov. 1, 1984
Blue Nov. 1, 1990
Brown Dec. 1, 1993

Front : Soseki Natsume
Back : Cranes



Nihon no okane (2) : Japanese Coins

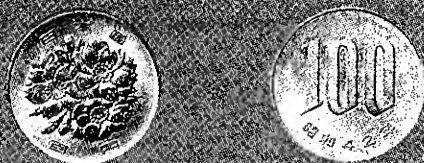
Photos © The Bank of Japan

As of December 1994

500-yen Cupro-nickel Coin Diameter: 26.5mm Weight: 7.2g



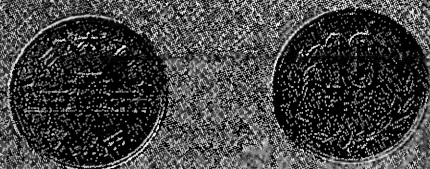
100-yen Cupro-nickel Coin Diameter: 22.6mm Weight: 4.8g



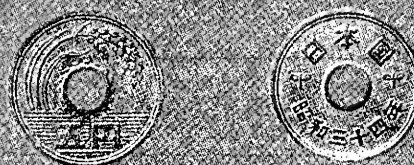
50-yen Cupro-nickel Coin Diameter: 21mm Weight: 4.0g



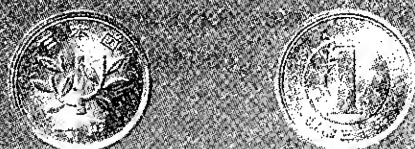
10-yen Bronze Coin Diameter: 23.5mm Weight: 4.5g



5-yen Brass Coin Diameter: 22mm Weight: 3.75g



1-yen Aluminum Coin Diameter: 20mm Weight: 1.0g



Kaimono (2)

Shopping (2)

1. Irasshaimase.
2. Sono kamera o misete kudasai.
- Kore desu ka.
Hai, dōzo.
3. Kore wa ikura desu ka.
- San-man go-sen-en desu.
4. Takai desu ne.
(a)
Motto yasui no ga arimasu ka.
(b) (c)
- Hai, arimasu
Kore wa ikaga desu ka.
Ni-man-en desu.
5. Dewa kore o kudasai.

1. Welcome.
2. Please show me that camera.
- You mean this?
Here you are.
3. How much is it?
- It's 35,000 yen.
4. That's expensive!
Do you have a cheaper one?
- Yes, we do.
How about this?
It's 20,000 yen.
5. Well then, I'll take it.

(a)

takai	expensive	yasui	inexpensive, cheap
ōkii	big, large	chiisai	small
nagai	long	mijikai	short
akai	red	aoi	blue
shiroi	white	kuroi	black



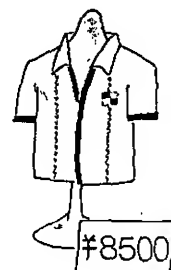
ōkii



chiisai

(b)

motto	{ yasui ōkii nagai }	no	{ cheaper bigger longer }	one
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takai



yasui

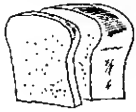
(c)

arimasu	have/there is	
Anata wa	{ kamera okane kodomo }	ga arimasu ka.
- Hai, arimasu.		Do you have { a camera? some money? children? }
- Iie, arimasen.		- Yes, I have. - No, I don't.

Tabemono

Food

pan
bread



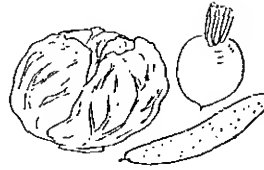
gohan
rice



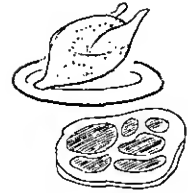
sakana
fish



yasai
vegetable



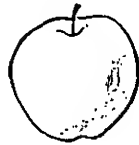
niku
meat



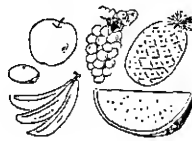
tamago
egg



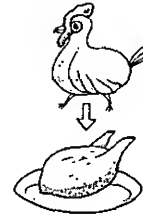
ringo
apple



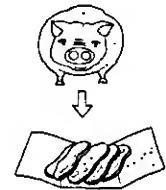
kudamono
fruit



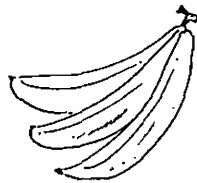
toriniku
chicken



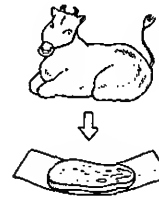
butaniku
pork



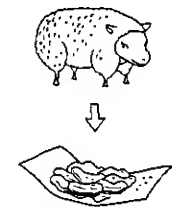
banana
banana



gyūniku
beef



maton
mutton



mizu
cold water



miruku
milk



kōcha
black tea



kōhii
coffee



o-sake
liquor/rice-wine



biiru
beer



oishii	tasty
mazui	not tasty
atsui	hot
tsumetai	cold [for things]
amai	sweet
karai	hot / pungent / salty

Kissaten/Resutoran de

At a coffee shop/restaurant

1. Menyū o misete kudasai.

Ei-go no menyū ga arimasu ka.

- Hai, arimasu.

- Iie, arimasen.

2. Sandoitchi ga arimasu ka.

- Hai, yasai-sando *to hamu-sando

*to mikkusu-sando ga arimasu.

3. Dewa mikkusu-sando *to tomato-jūsu o kudasai.

1. Please show me the menu.

Do you have an English menu?

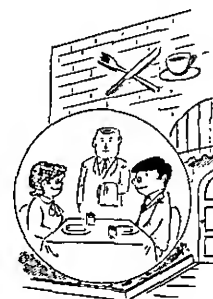
- Yes, we do.

- No, we don't.

2. Do you have sandwiches?

- Yes, we have vegetable sandwiches, ham sandwiches and mixed sandwiches.

3. Well, I'll have a mixed sandwich and a tomato juice.



*to and
kore to are this *and* that
kōhii to kōcha coffee *and* tea

NOMIMONO: Drinks

jūsu	juice
orenji-jūsu	orange juice
banana-jūsu	banana juice
painappuru-jūsu	pineapple juice
kōhii	coffee
kōcha	tea
miruku	milk
biiru	beer
mizu	water
kokoa	cocoa
wain	wine
uisukii	whisky

SHOKUJI: Food

pan	bread
gohan	rice, meal
sutēki	steak
sarada	salad
tōsuto	toast
hotto-doggu	hot dog
hanbāgā	hamburger
piza	pizza
supagetti	spaghetti
sandoitchi	sandwich
tamago-sando	egg sandwich
chiizu-sando	cheese sandwich
yasai-sando	vegetable sandwich
karē	curry
biifu-karē	beef curry
chikin-karē	chicken curry
poku-karē	pork curry

...-te kudasai.

1. Kudasai.
2. Misete kudasai.
3. Totte kudasai.
4. Okutte kudasai.
5. Kite kudasai.
6. (Issho ni) itte kudasai.
7. Tetsudatte kudasai.
8. Kaite kudasai.
9. Yonde kudasai.
10. Denwa o kakete kudasai.
11. Oshiete kudasai.
12. Kaete kudasai.

Please

1. Please (give me).
2. Please show me.
3. Please take
4. Please send
5. Please come.
6. Please go (together).
7. Please help me.
8. Please write.
9. Please read.
10. Please make a phone call.
11. Please tell me
12. Please change

denwa no kake-kata how to telephone
denwa-bangō telephone number

tegami letter
jūsho address



Byōki

1. Dō shimashita ka.
2. Atama }
Onaka } ga itai desu.
Ha }
3. Netsu ga arimasu.
4. Kaze o hikimashita.
5. Tabetakunai desu.
6. Kusuri o kudasai.
7. Byōin e ikitai desu.



Illness

1. What's the matter (with you)?
2. I have a { headache.
stomachache.
toothache.
3. I have a fever.
4. I've caught a cold.
5. I have no appetite.
6. Can I have some medicine?
7. I'd like to go to a hospital.



Sayōnara

1. Kuni e kaerimasu.
2. Iroiro arigatō gozaimashita.
3. Nihon wa yokatta desu.
4. Kaette kara, tegami o kakimasu.
5. Itsu made mo o-genki de.
6. Sayōnara.

Good-bye

1. I am going back to my country.
2. Thank you for everything.
3. I had a good time in Japan.
4. I'll write a letter after returning home.
5. Please keep well.
6. Good-bye.

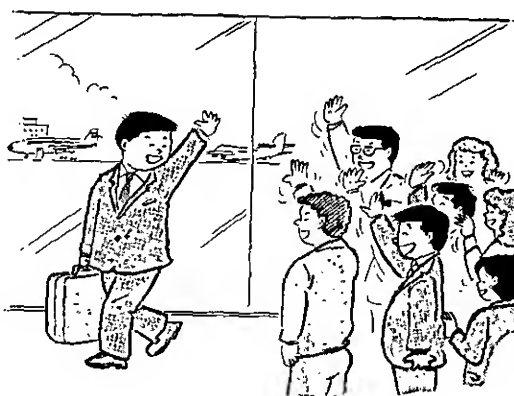


chart 1

1 	2 
gohan o tabemasu	kamera o kaimasu
3 	4 
tabako o suimasu	kōhī o nomimasu
5 	6 
shashin o torimasu	tēpu o kikimasu
7 	8 
shinbun o yomimasu	tegami o kakimasu
9 	10 
terebi o mimasu	Nihon-go o benkyō-shimasu

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. tabemasu | eat |
| 2. kaimasu | buy |
| 3. tabako o suimasu | smoke |
| 4. nomimasu | drink |
| 5. torimasu | take |

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 6. kikimasu | listen |
| 7. yomimasu | read |
| 8. kakimasu | write |
| 9. mimasu | see, watch |
| 10. benkyō-shimasu | study |

chart 2

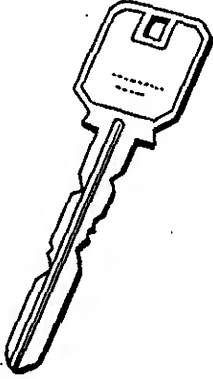
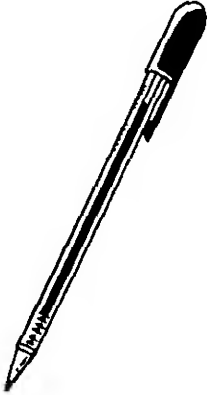
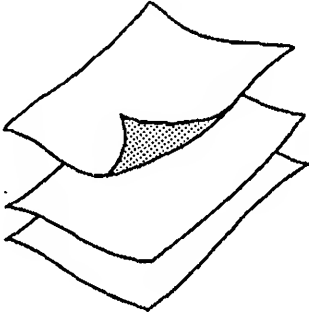
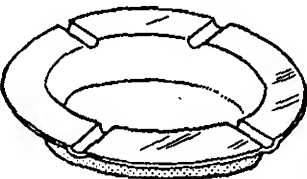
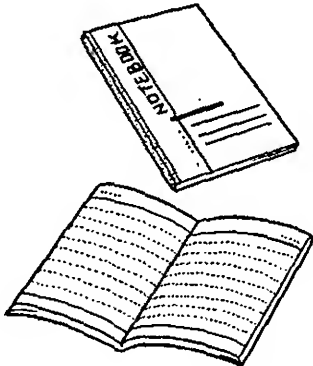
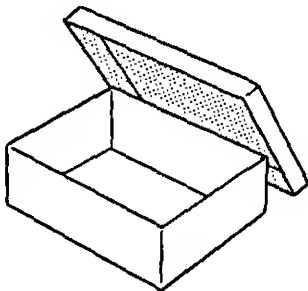


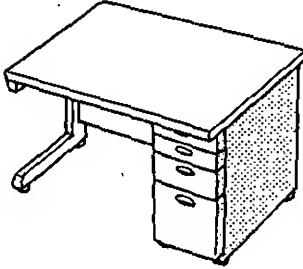

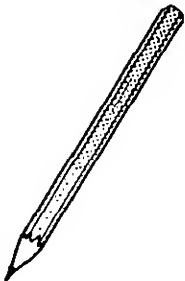
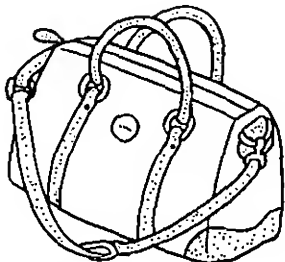
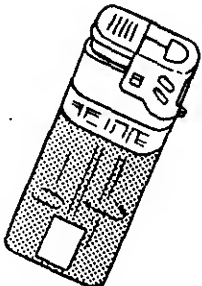
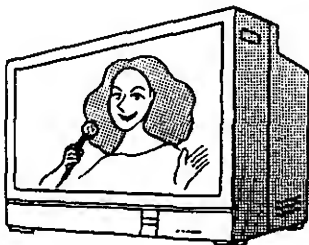

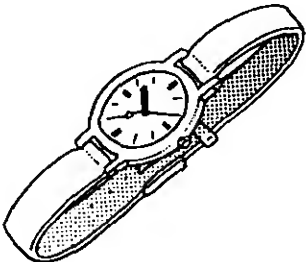
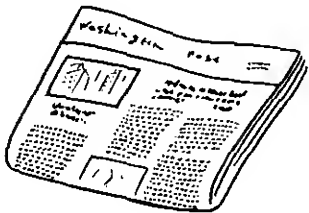
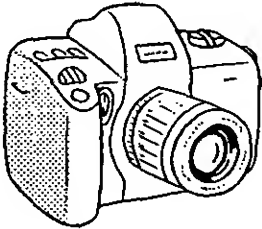
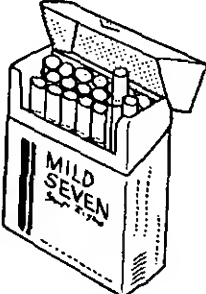
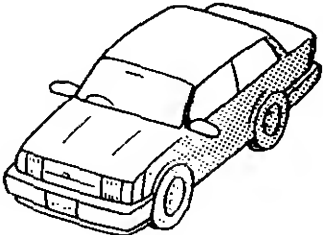
<p>1 kagi key</p> 	<p>2 bōrupen ball-point pen</p> 	<p>3 kami paper</p> 
<p>4 haizara ashtray</p> 	<p>5 nōto notebook</p> 	<p>6 hako box</p> 
<p>7 jisho dictionary</p> 	<p>8 isu chair</p> 	<p>9 tsukue desk</p> 

chart 3

<p>1 hon book</p>  <p>¥ 1,200</p>	<p>2 enpitsu pencil</p>  <p>¥ 20</p>	<p>3 kaban bag</p>  <p>¥ 18,000</p>
<p>4 raitā lighter</p>  <p>¥ 90</p>	<p>5 rajio radio</p>  <p>¥ 9,300</p>	<p>6 terebi television</p>  <p>¥ 105,000</p>
<p>7 zasshi magazine</p>  <p>¥ 540</p>	<p>8 tokei watch, clock</p>  <p>¥ 23,600</p>	<p>9 shinbun newspaper</p>  <p>¥ 110</p>
<p>10 kamera camera</p>  <p>¥ 37,800</p>	<p>11 tabako tobacco</p>  <p>¥ 260</p>	<p>12 jidōsha automobile</p>  <p>¥ 2,460,000</p>